

SOCIAL WORKER

Licensing Authority	<p>Paulette Lappe Board of Social Work Examiners Iowa Department of Public Health Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl 321 E 12th St Des Moines IA 50319-0075 Phone: (515) 281-4422 Fax: (515) 281-3121 E-mail: plappe@idph.state.ia.us</p>
Legal Authority	Code of Iowa, Chapter 154C; Iowa Administrative Code 645, Chapters 279-283
Job Description	<p>Social workers enhance or restore people's capacity for social functioning. They utilize analytic and intervention skills to apply psychosocial theory methods to individuals, couples, families, groups, and communities. This occupation does not include psychologists or psychiatrists. Social workers deal with individuals and/or groups of people concerned with bringing about changes in their lives; try to secure the appropriate resources, services, education, information, job training or method to meet the client's needs; and, help individuals understand themselves and how to work within the existing system.</p> <p>Clinical social workers also diagnose and treat individuals and families for emotional disabilities. They plan and conduct programs for children, teenagers, adults, older persons, and groups with similar situations.</p> <p>Social workers, with input from their clients, record goals and plans of action for their clients and then maintain detailed reports of their clients' progress. They may be licensed at three levels of practice: the bachelor, master, or independent level. The title social worker includes: case worker, probation and parole officer, community worker, and correctional treatment specialist.</p>
Education & Experience Required	<p>A licensed social worker must have the appropriate level of education and experience according to the level at which they choose to practice:</p> <p>Bachelor Social Work: Must possess a bachelor's degree in Social Work and pass the basic level of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) exam.</p> <p>Master Social Work: Must possess a master's degree in Social Work and pass the intermediate level of the ASWB exam.</p> <p>Independent Social Work: Must possess a master's degree in Social Work, practice social work for two years as a full-time employee or complete 4,000 hours employment under the supervision of a licensed, independent social worker after receiving a master's or doctoral degree in Social Work and passing the clinical level of the ASWB exam.</p> <p>A license may be upgraded if the applicant obtains additional education or experience. Out-of-state applicants must meet Iowa requirements.</p>
Continuing Education	<p>Twenty-seven hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal. Three of these hours must be in social work ethics.</p>

Examination	<p>Bachelor Social Work – must pass the basic level of the ASWB exam Master Social Work – must pass the intermediate level of the ASWB exam Independent Social Work – must pass the clinical level of the ASWB exam</p> <p>For information on examination dates, the electronic examination is scheduled with the ASWB. For more information visit the ASWB Web site at: www.aswb.org</p>
Fees	<p>Application: \$100 Duration: Two Years Renewal: \$60 – Bachelor level \$100 – Master's level \$120 – Independent level Exam: Arrangements made by applicant, fee paid to exam service</p>
SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage	21-1021 – Child, Family, and School Social Workers (\$16.71)
Number of Licenses Issued	<p>Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2003: 4,327 2002: 4,090 2001: 5,305</p>
For Additional Information	<p>Iowa Department of Public Health Web site: www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure</p> <p>National Association of Social Workers IC-Career Information 750 First St NE Ste 700 Washington DC 20002-4241</p> <p>National Network for Social Work Managers Inc 1316 New Hampshire Ave NW Ste 602 Washington DC 20036</p> <p>Council on Social Work Education 1600 Duke St Ste 300 Alexandria VA 22314-3421 www.cswe.org</p> <p>Association of Social Work Boards 400 South Ridge Pky Ste B Culpepper VA 22701 www.aswb.org</p>